



## **Arlington Disability Commission Minutes**

Date: June 19, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: 20 Academy Street, Suite # 203

Attendance: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Darcy Devney, Liza Molina, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Paul Raia, Maureen St. Hilaire

Others: Jack Jones (Director of Housing and Disability Programs), Christine Bongiorno (Director of Health & Human Services), Juliette Hoyer (Precinct 1 Town Meeting Member), Reese Perkenger (Volunteer), Julie Wayman (CDBG Administrator, and ADA Self Evaluation Liason), Ellen Leigh (Disability Advocate)

Absent: Paul Czech, Kerrie Fallon, Karen Mathiasen

### Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm
2. Assigned timekeeper & Read Ground Rules
3. Meeting Minutes for May – Motion to accept the May 15, 2019 minutes as amended. Approved (Unanimous)
4. Public Comments. Thompson school is creating a pollinating garden which is a volunteer effort, and Juliette Hoyer addressed the Commission and is interested in reaching out to the Disability Commission to see if there are any accessibility ideas or any members that would like to work with the group or share ideas regarding accessibility and modifications for inclusion for all. As the project progresses Ms. Hoyer will send pictures and info to Chair DeAngelis who will forward to the Commissioners for suggestions and recommendations. Ms. Hoyer also inquired and discussions took place regarding a Face Book Page for the Disability Commission, and the pros and cons were discussed. DeAngelis stated the Disability Commission will be working with the Town regarding the web-site redesign and ADA compliance. Ellen Leigh discussed efforts and new technology to review and rate accessibility for all buildings and spaces throughout town. Discussions also took place regarding playground accessibility. The Commission will invite the Town's Public School Special Education Director, Allison Elmer, to a future meeting for collaborative discussions and to foster on-going partnerships.
5. Update from Julie Wayman and Community Response – Julie Wayman introduced herself to the Commissioners and recapped her work overseeing the project with the Institute for Human Center Design to put together the ADA self evaluation and transition plans for the towns public facilities, public

ways, parks, and programs. Wayman stated that feedback from the Commission has been very valuable and very much appreciated. The plan is projected to be finalized by early July. The plan will be broken down into three categories: Project Start Date, Project Completion Date, and Responsible for Barrier Removal. The Institute will put in their own priorities as guidance and then town officials will also put in their priorities based on existing plans and on-going projects, as well as town needs. Once the report is complete, projects will be prioritized. Once prioritized, individuals will be able to review the plans online, and submit feedback. A public meeting will then be set and advertised through the Town of Arlington web-site and other areas including the Arlington List Serve and other public forums.

Commissioners believed the Institutes survey of the buildings was on target and very comprehensive. Commissioner Raia stated a survey regarding accessibility to public buildings was recently sent out by the Council on Aging which may have additional useful information. Results of this survey will be shared with Wayman and members of the Disability Commission.

6. July 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting will be cancelled due to scheduling conflicts.
7. Committee for Town Day – Maureen St. Hilaire will Chair a Town Day Sub-Committee. Planning meeting to be scheduled in August. Ideas were discussed as to possible activities to be planned at the booth including activities for all age groups.
8. Update on Phone Calls and Inquiries – Jack Jones reported a couple of phone calls have been received regarding 6 Jason Street. There are plans to replace the elevator but it will be out of commission for 3 months and there are at least 2 people with disability and mobility impairments on the upper floors. Jack Jones spoke with Mass Office of Disability and they will look into this matter further. Commissioners discussed concerns regarding safety issues for those residents, and options. Jones also reported a resident called who would like more Recreational Programs inclusive for her child and all children with disabilities.
9. Update – Darcy Devney – No updates
10. Update – Michael Rademacher – No updates
11. Priorities for next meeting – Town Day, Update on High School Building Committee, Update on newly posted position: Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.
12. Other Business – A letter has been drafted to request a seat on the Arlington High School Building Committee. Christine Bongiorno will work with the Town Manager to formally request a representative of the Disability Commission be appointed to have voting seat on the Committee. Interested Commissioners who would like to serve as the Representative shall email the Chair Cynthia DeAngelis.
13. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm